TL 3107

They shall beat their Swords into Ploughshares ..

(Micah 4.3)

Since Indonesia invaded East Timor [north of Australia] in 1975 more than a third of the population have been killed; even today the slaughter and human rights abuses continue. Although much of the international community, including the United Nations, has called for Indonesia to withdraw, certain powerful governments and arms companies have continued to help the Indonesian regime in various ways. One of these countries is the UK, whose Minister for Trade and Industry has recently granted export licences to British Aerospace, in defiance of the normal UN and E.C. guidelines for arms sales.

British Aerospace claim that the 24 Hawk jets they are selling are basically training aircraft - this is a whitewash. Numerous eyewitness accounts testify the use of BAe Hawks from the 1978 deal in ground attack roles, bombing Timorese civilians (our most recent report was a sighting of Hawks over East Timor's capital Dili last November). Indeed their publicity shows this function and the former British Prime Minister describes their use as such.

The INDONESIAN MILITARY REGIME is violating the 1948 UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide directly; and so are:

- THE UK GOVERNMENT which should be preventing genocide, not being complicitous in it (Articles 1 and 3e); and
- BRITISH AEROSPACE which is also aiding and abetting genocide, contrary to the Aiders and Abetters Act of 1851 and the Genocide Act of 1969

Under international law we all have a duty to refuse to have any part in war crimes (Nuremberg Principle VII). And under British domestic law everybody has a right to use reasonable means not-excluding force in the prevention of a crime (Criminal Law Act, 1967, s.3). This is exactly what the Ploughshares women's action did on 29th January 1996 at Warton test base when they entered a hangar and nonviolently disarmed a Hawk ground attack aircraft destined for Indonesia.

In keeping with their belief that they have right - and law - on their side, they made no attempt to evade responsibility for their actions. Instead of congratulating the women, the police have charged Lotta Kronlid, Andrea Needham and Joanna Wilson with criminal damage and conspiracy to commit criminal damage, and Angie Zelter with conspiracy to commit criminal damage. The Crown Prosecution quoted the damage estimate to be £2.4 million. All are in Risley prison awaiting trial.

Joanna, Andrea, Lotta and Angie acted on the basis of conscience, but also to enforce the law - where the government is guilty of complicity in genocide - and yet the courts are blocking all normal legal means. They acted by and for themselves, but they also acted in solidarity with the courageous people of East Timor who have called upon the West to hear their suffering and to stop selling arms to Indonesia

To express your solidarity both with the Ploughshares Women and with the people of East Timor, ***please photocopy and circulate this sheet and the petition***, which calls on the authorities to discontinue the case on public interest grounds. Please return signatures to *SEEDS OF HOPE - EAST TIMOR PLOUGHSHARES,* Box S, 55 Queen Margaret's Grove, London N1 4PZ, England. Tel.: 0171-923 9511 as soon as possible. Donations are also needed, to continue publicity, campaigning and prisoner's support work. Cheques payable to *EAST TIMOR PLOUGHSHARES.*

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Petition to the Courts and Prosecution Authorities
concerning the case, Regina -v- Kronlid, Needham, Wilson and Zelter

We, the undersigned, have learned that four women are facing trial in connection with the disarmament of a Hawk ground attack plane which was about to be sent to Indonesia to help the regime there continue their military dictatorship, and which was likely to be used to bomb the peaceful people of East Timor, where Indonesia has already killed a third of the entire population in twenty years.

We wish to register our understanding that the accused acted as a last resort and used means reasonable in all the circumstances to stop the commission of a very serious crime (aiding and abetting genocide). Accordingly, we look to the Courts to recognise the women's justification in international **and British** law for disarming a Hawk jet which, in the genocidal circumstances prevailing, had forfeited its right to the protection of law.

In addition, WE CALL ON THE CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE, THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS AND/OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO DISCONTINUE THE CASE ON PUBLIC INTEREST GROUNDS. In our opinion it could never be in the long-term public interest for British companies or the Government to aid and abet genocide. Lotta, Andrea, Joanna and Angie should be set free immediately. They should be honoured, not prosecuted, for having acted in such a public-spirited way.

NAME and ADDRESS [please use capitals]	SIGNATURE

return to: *EAST TIMOR PLOUGHSHARES*, Box S, 55 Queen Margarets Grove, London N1 4PZ